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The Terrestrial Form of the Newt, *Triturus viridescens*, in the Chicago Region

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Three specimens of the terrestrial form of the newt, *Triturus viridescens louisianensis* (Wolterstorff), were collected on July 27, 1946, in Deer Grove Park, a forest preserve three miles southeast of Barrington, Cook County, Illinois, by a field party from Northwestern University. They were found in an upland oak forest under small logs at a considerable distance from any open water. All of the small streams had dried up as a result of a protracted dry period. Four days later the writer revisited the area, accompanied by Thurston I. Wright and Dr. H. K. Gloyd, and obtained four more in similar situations.

The dorsal surface was reddish-brown in color with some black and reddish spots and a few yellow spots on either side of the middorsal line. The ventral surface was light yellow with small black spots. The texture of the skin is very rough, the roughness being due to many small horny protuberances. These protuberances are largely limited to the dorsal surface of the body. The tail is not fin-like as in the aquatic form, although it does retain a certain degree of lateral compression. The four specimens collected July 31 ranged from 56.4 mm. to 65.1 mm. in total length and 28 mm. to 31.2 mm. in tail length.

In addition to those recently obtained, one specimen of *T. v. louisianensis* in the collection of the Chicago Academy of Sciences, taken before 1866 by Robert Kennicott in Cook County, Illinois, is undoubtedly a terrestrial form. A check of the specimens of this subspecies at the Chicago Natural History Museum revealed four which appear to be the same as the terrestrial forms described above. The localities and dates of collection for these

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specimens are Glendon Park, Cook County, Illinois, 1903; Willow Springs, Cook County, Illinois, 1906; Delavan, Walworth County, Wisconsin, 1922; and Butternut, Ashland County, Wisconsin, 1940.

Two of the specimens from Deer Grove Park were sent to Dr. S. C. Bishop of the University of Rochester who commented that they are much like those of the terrestrial form of this subspecies in his collection from Mississippi and Arkansas, and that terrestrial forms have been reported from Louisiana (Strecker and Frierson, 1926, p. 5) and Kansas (Gloyd, 1932, p. 394).

Modern references to the occurrence of the land-stage of *T. v. louisianensis* in the Chicago region have all been negative. Schmidt (1930, p. 13) comments that the terrestrial stage of the red eft does not occur in the Chicago region and Schmidt and Necker (1935, p. 62) imply that it is absent from the area. Pope (1944, p. 26) states that the land form of this subspecies is not only unknown from the Chicago region, but also from the Louisiana Gulf Coast and the Mississippi Valley.

A further check of the literature revealed a number of apparently acceptable records of the terrestrial form in the Chicago region. Earlier authors used an older nomenclature in which the form under discussion was placed in the genus *Diemyctylus* and the specific name was *miniatus*. The terrestrial form had been described as a different variety or subspecies. Davis and Rice (1883, p. 27) listed *Diemyctylus miniatus miniatus* Raf., the red "evet," as being common throughout the state of Illinois. Cope (1889, p. 207) used the name *Diemyctylus viridescens viridescens* Raf. and listed two forms, *viridescens* and *miniatus*, the latter the terrestrial stage. In a table of specimens of *miniatus* in the U. S. National Museum, he listed six from Cook County, Illinois, collected by R. Kennicott and six from Aux Plains River, Illinois [*sic*] collected by C. B. R. Kennicott. Garman (1892, p. 356) stated that the *miniatus* form occurred throughout the state of Illinois and recorded it from Cook County on the authority of Kennicott, and Hurter (1911, p. 96) reported collecting the land form (*miniatus*) but did not state whether the locality was in Missouri or Illinois.

Bishop (1943, p. 108-109) states that the land stage of *T. v. louisianensis* appears regularly in various parts of the range. He goes on to say that it resembles that of *T. v. viridescens* except that the red spots are lacking or greatly reduced. This last agrees with the appearance of the specimens from Deer Grove Park. Lastly, Breckenridge (1944, p. 45) reports specimens of the land stage of *T. v. louisianensis* in Minnesota and further states that they are dull reddish-brown to nearly black in color.

It seems, therefore, that reports in the literature on the absence of the terrestrial stage of *T. v. louisianensis* in the Chicago region are in error, both on the basis of the new collections and on the reports of older authors. The

scarcity of material is perhaps an indication that the land stage may be omitted in some cases or may occur only in very dry years, but since only eleven specimens are listed in Schmidt and Necker's check list (1935, p. 62), it may be that the species does not occur in this region in great abundance at any time.

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Natural History Miscellanea, a series of miscellaneous papers initiated in 1946 as an outlet for original articles, more or less technical in nature, one to four pages in length, in any field of natural history. Individual issues, published at irregular intervals, are numbered separately and represent only one field of specialization; e. g., botany, geology, entomology, herpetology, etc. The series is distributed to libraries and scientific organizations with which the Academy maintains exchanges. A title page and index will be supplied to these institutions when a sufficient number of pages to form a volume have been printed. Individual specialists with whom the museum or the various authors maintain exchanges receive those numbers dealing with their particular fields of interest. A reserve is set aside for future exchanges and a supply of each number is available for sale at a nominal price. Authors may obtain copies for their personal exchanges at the prevailing rates for similar reprints.

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